

Advisory Team: Funding Streams

MINUTES

OCTOBER 25, 2016

430 -6:00 PM

NHDOE - STATE BOARD ROOM

ADVISORY TEAM LEAD	Caitlin Davis
NOTE TAKER	Shirley Hadley
ATTENDEES	<p><u>From the NHDOE</u>: Heather Gage, Caitlin Davis, Deborah Fleurant, Richard Feistman Ashley Frame, Chris Motika, Joey Nichols, Jane Waterhouse and Matt Welch</p> <p><u>External attendees</u>: Cherrie Fulton, Nashua School District; Mel Myler, NH House of Representatives; Jennifer Burk, Milford School District; Robin Heins, SAU 46; Larry Boeuf, SAU 65; Cynthia Sparks, SAU 61; Ada McDowell SAU 21; Mary Gile, NH House of Representatives; Kim Carter, MC2 Charter School; Sharon DeVincent, Manchester School District; Pam Miller, Winnisquam School District; Carl Ladd, NHSAA</p>
OBSERVERS	
PRE-READ MATERIALS	

DISCUSSION	
<p>Heather provided an overview of the handout, <i>How NH is Responding to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)</i>, and provided background on ESSA and its intention. ESSA is the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act. ESSA is to offer more flexibility with regard to monitoring improvement. It prohibits the requirement that states adopt specific standards, assessments. Heather also addressed the Consultation Structure (p.14), showing NHDOE's strategy for obtaining public input, in advance of compiling its draft state plan. A draft is anticipated in January-February 2017 timeframe, with a finalized date of July 2017.</p> <p>The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the new, <i>"Proposed Supplement not Supplant Regulation,"</i> obtain stakeholder input as to how the fiscal changes may impact school districts and determine the recommended direction. What challenges might be posed? What questions need to be addressed?</p> <p>As a result of this meeting, the NHDOE must submit input to the USDoE by November 7, 2016.</p> <p>Schools are exempt if their attendance is under 100 pupils. NH is unique in the large number of small districts that we have, over 300 schools with fewer than 100 students.</p> <p>Caitlin explained that ESSA will provide similar grant opportunities as No Child Left Behind, with only one new grant, Title VI-A. All schools may get a small portion of the anticipated total of \$2.5M. Congress has not allocated funding for this new ESSA grant yet.</p> <p>Richard Feistman went through the Title I process currently in place, and asked for input as to how this process is working within the school districts. Reviewed at the <i>school</i> level, not district. It was 'programmatic' goals, but now it is more 'financial.' What are schools providing <i>above</i> the requirement? Supplant = must be beyond the requirements under the law.</p> <p>The new proposed regulation states that districts must meet one of four federal benchmarks. (Refer to CCSSO handout, <i>"September 2016 Proposed Supplement not Supplant Regulation: Overview and Impact."</i>) Ashley asked, "Do these new benchmarks apply only to Title I?" Caitlin replied that these benchmarks may be taking the place of <i>maintenance of effort</i>.</p>	

Attendees were asked, “Out of the four benchmarks, which one would be preferred?”

Representative Mary Gile represents NH at the National Conference of State Legislators and offered to lobby on the NHDOE’s behalf once there is a firm position.

Kim Carter questioned the exemption of 100 students. Is it 100 students in a Title I school? Or, within a district? When does this apply? MC2 has a total of two (2) schools – Manchester and Monadnock.

Deb Fleurant – Is the guidance with regard to extreme circumstances, weather, etc.?

Title I Director – A high school, particularly, may get additional monies from varied sources (i.e., competitive grant) than an elementary school. Does this funding count?

Carl Ladd expressed his major concerns: (1) What will be considered part of the equalized spending formula? (2) When building aid becomes available again, will capital costs be factored into this? (3) The issue of inequity in spending due to health insurance benefits, for example.

Question: “Targeted” vs. school-wide? Richard Feistman stated, at this time this has not been addressed.

Caitlin: Business administrators need to be more involved. In the future, the NHDOE will do some grant mock ups to use for comparisons - use grant application, run as it is today, then run it again as it would be next year; same funds, different basket. Monitor the regulations for other grants to see what the fiscal impacts would be; possibly get to the new OBM regulations that came out last year (super-circular). The NHDOE is in the process of looking at the audit findings and may need to provide more resources to schools.

Richard Feistman: If you have a certain amount of Title I funding, schools could go below 85%.

Ashley Frame: For Title II-A, school districts cannot receive any less than they received in 2001.

CONCLUSIONS

Attendees were encouraged to read the proposed regulations and submit input to the Department of Education ASAP.

Meeting ended at 5:35 PM.

ACTION ITEMS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	DEADLINE
Read proposed regulations and submit input/questions to Caitlin Davis at Caitlin.Davis@doe.nh.gov	Attendees	ASAP
Submit input to the USDoE	NHDOE Leadership	November 7, 2016
Schedule next meeting date	Caitlin Davis	Near future